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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/661,634	09/15/2003	Ryoji Matsumura	117163	7951
25944 7590 09/18/2008 OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC P.O. BOX 320850 ALEXANDRIA, VA 22320-4850			EXAMINER MCCOMMAS, BRENDAN N	
			ART UNIT 2625	PAPER NUMBER
			MAIL DATE 09/18/2008	DELIVERY MODE PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/661,634

**Applicant(s)**

MATSUMURA, RYOJI

**Examiner**

BRENDAN MCCOMMAS

**Art Unit**

2625

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 30 May 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 November 2003 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114*

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 5/20/2008 has been entered.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1-6 and 8-13** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Machida (United States Patent 6,642,943) further in view of Kremer et al. (United States Patent 7,003,723) hereinafter referenced as Kremer.

3. **Regarding claim 1**, Machida discloses a data processing apparatus, data processing method, and storage medium storing a computer-readable program.

4. In addition, Machida discloses a service execution requesting unit (103, 104, etc) which requests a service processing apparatus based on first cooperation instruction

information, that instructs the cooperative processing apparatus to perform cooperative execution, via a network, or respective processes of plural services of a cooperative process on document data, a service requesting apparatus for executing a service wherein a plurality of separate devices perform a plurality of services on the document data, as disclosed in the abstract, column 4, lines 51-60, column 41, lines 1-36 and exhibited in figures 1 and 2 ;

However Machida fails to explicitly disclose a cooperation instruction information generating unit for generating second cooperation instruction information that instructs the cooperative processing apparatus to perform cooperative execution of the service which the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing (because the combination has been judged to be ineffective), the services following it, without user intervention. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, as taught by Kremer.

In a similar field of endeavor Kremer discloses a system and method for representing and managing pages in a production printing workflow. In addition Kremer discloses a cooperation instruction information generating unit for generating second cooperation instruction information that instructs the cooperative processing apparatus to perform cooperative execution of the service which the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing (because the combination has been judged to be ineffective), the services following it, without user intervention, as disclosed in column 11, lines 53-67.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, for the purpose of allowing the system to manage the workflow setup by the user and more easily modify the selected pages if some functionality needs to be found elsewhere, as disclosed in the abstract of Kremer.

5. **Regarding claim 2**, Machida and Kremer disclose, everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1), However Machida fails to explicitly disclose a cooperation instruction information generating unit which generates the second cooperation instruction information when the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn in order of the plural services has come. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, as taught by Kremer.

In a similar field of endeavor Kremer discloses a system and method for representing and managing pages in a production printing workflow. In addition Kremer discloses a cooperation instruction information generating unit which generates the second cooperation instruction information when the service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn in order of the plural services has come, as disclosed in column 11, lines 53-67 and column 18, lines 39-67.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, for the purpose of allowing the system to manage the workflow setup by the user and more

easily modify the selected pages if some service needs to be found elsewhere, as disclosed in the abstract of Kremer.

6. **Regarding claim 3**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1), However Machida fails to explicitly disclose a cooperative processing apparatus, wherein the cooperation instruction information generating unit generates the second cooperation instruction information (as input by the user) which incorporates the same identification information from the first failed cooperation instruction in the second cooperation instruction and deletes the execution-completed services and writes a statement that remaining services should be executed in a cooperative manner. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, as taught by Kremer.

In a similar field of endeavor Kremer discloses a system and method for representing and managing pages in a production printing workflow. In addition Kremer discloses a cooperative processing apparatus, wherein the cooperation instruction information generating unit generates the second cooperation instruction information (as input by the user) which incorporates the same identification information from the first failed cooperation instruction in the second cooperation instruction and deletes the execution-completed services and writes a statement that remaining services should be executed in a cooperative manner, as disclosed in column 19, lines 1-25.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, for the

purpose of allowing the system to manage the workflow setup by the user and more easily modify the selected pages if some functionality needs to be found elsewhere, as disclosed in the abstract of Kremer.

7. **Regarding claim 4**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1), However Machida fails to explicitly disclose a cooperative processing apparatus wherein the cooperation instruction information unit generates storage destination information (or an output PC to store the plural image data) of document data before the service processing apparatus became incapable of servicing the request. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, as taught by Kremer.

In a similar field of endeavor Kremer discloses a system and method for representing and managing pages in a production printing workflow. In addition Kremer discloses a cooperative processing apparatus wherein the cooperation instruction information unit generates storage destination information (or an output PC to store the plural image data) of document data before the service processing apparatus became incapable of servicing the request, as disclosed in column 11, lines 53-67.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, for the purpose of allowing the system to manage the workflow setup by the user and more

easily modify the selected pages if some functionality needs to be found elsewhere, as disclosed in the abstract of Kremer.

8. **Regarding claim 5**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1), However Machida fails to explicitly disclose the cooperative processing apparatus wherein the cooperation instruction generating unit generates second cooperation instruction information including log information indicating execution completed services, or second cooperation instruction information to which the first cooperation instruction information is attached. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, as taught by Kremer.

In a similar field of endeavor Kremer discloses a system and method for representing and managing pages in a production printing workflow. In addition Kremer discloses the cooperative processing apparatus wherein the cooperation instruction generating unit generates second cooperation instruction information including log information indicating execution completed services, or second cooperation instruction information to which the first cooperation instruction information is attached which allows the document to finally be collated, as disclosed in column 19, lines 6-25 and column 19, lines 40-42.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, for the purpose of allowing the system to manage the workflow setup by the user and more



easily modify the selected pages if some functionality needs to be found elsewhere, as disclosed in the abstract of Kremer.

9. **Regarding claim 6**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1), However Machida fails to explicitly disclose a cooperative processing apparatus wherein when instructed to effect re-execution the service execution unit requests on basis of second cooperation instruction information a service processing apparatus for executing a service. However it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, as taught by Kremer.

In a similar field of endeavor Kremer discloses a system and method for representing and managing pages in a production printing workflow. In addition Kremer discloses a cooperative processing apparatus wherein when instructed to effect re-execution the service execution unit requests on basis of second cooperation instruction information a service processing apparatus for executing a service, as disclosed in column 11, lines 53-67, column 18, lines 47-67, and column 19, lines 1-35.

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, for the purpose of allowing the system to manage the workflow setup by the user and more easily modify the selected pages if some functionality needs to be found elsewhere, as disclosed in the abstract of Kremer.

10. **Regarding claim 8**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7), in addition claim 8 is interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 1. Claim 8 describes the method and claim 1 describes an apparatus for implementing a method. Thus claim 8 is rejected.

11. **Regarding claim 9**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7) in addition claim 9 is interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 2. Claim 9 describes the method and claim 2 describes an apparatus for implementing a method. Thus claim 9 is rejected.

12. **Regarding claim 10**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7), in addition claim 10 is interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 3. Claim 10 describes the method and claim 3 describes an apparatus for implementing a method. Thus claim 10 is rejected.

13. **Regarding claim 11**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7), in addition claim 11 is interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 4. Claim 11 describes the method and claim 4 describes an apparatus for implementing a method. Thus claim 11 is rejected.

14. **Regarding claim 12**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7), in addition claim 12 is interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 4. Claim 12 describes the method and claim 3 describes an apparatus for implementing a method. Thus claim 12 is rejected.

15. **Regarding claim 13**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7), in addition claim 13 is interpreted and thus rejected for the

reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 5. Claim 13 describes the method and claim 5 describes an apparatus for implementing a method. Thus claim 13 is rejected.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

16. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

17. **Claims 7 and 14** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Machida (United States Patent 7,002,702) further in view of Kremer et al. (United States Patent 7,003,723) hereinafter referenced as Kremer. further in view of Ochiai et al. (United States Patent 7,085,763) hereinafter referenced as Ochiai.

18. **Regarding claim 7**, Machida and Kremer disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 1), in addition Machida discloses a cooperative processing apparatus wherein comprising a cooperative process suspending unit for suspending the cooperative process if a service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn in order of the plural services has come, as disclosed in column 19, lines 1-20 and exhibited in figure 20. However Machida fails to explicitly disclose a search unit for searching for a substitute service processing apparatus when a service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn processing of the plural services has come.

19. However the examiner maintains it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include such a modification to the invention of Machida, as taught by Ochiai. In a similar field of endeavor, Ochiai discloses a device search system. In addition Ochiai discloses a search unit for searching for a substitute service processing apparatus when a service processing apparatus has become incapable of executing the service whose turn processing of the plural services has come, as disclosed in the abstract and column 6, lines 28-63 and exhibited in figure 9.

20. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teaching of Ochiai with the invention Machida for the purpose allowing the user to easily search for a suitable device, as disclosed by Ochiai in column 6, lines 28-45.

21. **Regarding claim 14**, Machida, Kremer and Ochiai disclose everything claimed as applied above (see claim 7), in addition claim 14 is interpreted and thus rejected for the reasons set forth above in the rejection of claim 7. Claim 14 describes the method and claim 7 describes an apparatus for implementing a method. Thus claim 14 is rejected.

### ***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to BRENDAN MCCOMMAS whose telephone number is (571)270-3575. The examiner can normally be reached on IFP.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Twyler Haskins can be reached on (571)272-7406. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/King Y. Poon/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/ Brendan N. McCommas/  
Examiner, Art Unit 2625

/B. M./  
Examiner, Art Unit 2625